

# Official Minutes for Webb County Commissioners Court Special Meeting

Monday, September 29, 2003 at 1:30 P.M.

(Approved October 27, 2003)

- Item No. 1      Call to order by Judge Louis H. Bruni  
Let it be remembered that a special meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 1:30 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:

Louis H. Bruni	County Judge
Jerry Vasquez	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Judith Gutierrez	Commissioner, Pct. 2
Felix Velasquez	Commissioner, Pct. 3
David Cortez	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 26 of September 2003. Present also were Ms. Nora Elia Prado, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court.

- Item No. 2      Roll Call – Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

- Item No. 3      Pledge of Allegiance – Led by all

- Item No. 4      Approval of Bills, Payroll and Monthly Reports

There were no reports, bills or payroll presented

- Item No. 5      Communications

Cmr. Vasquez stated that he has personally been criticized by speakers during the Public Comments section and would like to convey to the public that this is a difficult job but everyone who wished to speak should be allowed to speak their mind without being censored.

Cmr. Gutierrez had no communications.

Judge Bruni shared Cmr. Vasquez's concerns but stated that the court is not required to have public comments unless there is a public hearing. He accused Mr. Odie Arambula, Laredo Morning Times editor, of spinning articles as he pleases to criticize himself and his administration. He stated that the comment he made regarding Ms. Marissa Martinez at the previous meeting was taken out of context and his

comparison of Ms. Martinez to his ex-wife was not negative but positive because they are both strong minded and vocal.

Cmr. Velasquez thanked those individuals and constituents who contacted his office regarding action taken by the court at the previous meeting. He stated that his office was always available for constituents to share concerns.

Cmr. Cortez stated that he was currently working on several joint projects with the City Council and feels that a professional relationship with City Council members is for the benefit of City and County residents.

Item No. 6      Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Item No. 7      Discussion and possible action on the approval of the following line item transfers in the amount of \$200,000.

FROM:

#0106-5001	Building Maintenance	\$15,000
#0108-5001	Vehicle Maintenance	40,000
#0400-5001	County Auditor	50,000
#1101-5001	County Attorney	40,000
#1102-5001	Public Defender	35,000
#6001-5001	Golf Course	10,000
#6099-5001	Community Center Director	10,000
	TOTAL:	\$200,000

TO:

#1050-6018	Transcripts	\$12,000
#1050-6024	Court Appointed Attorneys	68,000
#1050-7001	Indigent Defendants	120,000
	TOTAL:	\$200,000

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she was concerned about whether or not these departments had been advised of the proposed budget transfers. She stated that the court had already approved the funding for this from the general fund. Mr. Raul Casso, County Judge's Chief of Staff, stated that the court had approved the funding from the General Fund but that savings had been found in several departments. Cmr. Velasquez stated that he shared Cmr. Gutierrez's concerns and stated that the court had already voted to approve funding from the ending fund balance. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that ending fund balance would show the savings in the departments and would be used to fund these monies and saw no need for this action. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that to avoid conflicts, he recommended no action be taken since funding would be allocated in two days anyway.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated for the record that every year, Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, requested approval from the Court to close all deficit accounts at the second meeting of the new fiscal year. Cmr. Velasquez stated that he would go with the recommendation of the County Attorney.

Motion carried 3-2 with Cmr. Velasquez and Judge Bruni voting against.

- Item No. 8      Discussion and possible action by resolution of the Webb County Commissioners Court to nominate a candidate for the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors and to cast all of Webb County's 1,024 votes for Commissioner Felix Velasquez as Webb County's member to the Webb County Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2004-2005 term as per Section 6.03 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve the item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-2 with Cmr. Vasquez and Cmr. Cortez voting against.

- Item No. 9      Discussion and possible action to designate meeting dates and time on which the Commissioners Court shall convene in regular term each month during the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Pursuant to Section 81.005, Texas Local Government Code. The Court may convene on any other day as deemed necessary as authorized by law.

Judge Bruni requested a trial period of 90 days to have the Commissioners Court meetings the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of every month at 1:00 p.m.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to designate the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of every month at 1:00 pm. and any other date that the Judge may see fit as the dates for the regular term meetings. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 10      Discussion and possible action to approve the proposed Holiday Schedule for Fiscal Year 2003-2004;

Columbus Day October 13, 2003 (Monday)  
Veteran's Day November 11, 2003 (Tuesday)  
Thanksgiving November 27 & 28, 2003 (Thurs. & Fri.)  
Christmas December 25 & 26, 2003 (Thurs. & Fri.)

New Years January 1 & 2, 2004 (Thurs. & Fri.)  
 Martin Luther King January 19, 2004 (Monday)  
 President's Day February 16, 2004 (Monday)  
 Good Friday April 9, 2004 (Friday)  
 Memorial Day May 31, 2004 (Monday)  
 Independence Day July 5, 2004 (Monday)  
 Labor Day September 6, 2004 (Monday)  
 Three Personal Holidays for Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve the proposed holiday schedule and three personal holidays. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, advised Court that current policy allows each employee three personal holidays with no time accrual necessary. He stated that employees earn one personal holiday every quarter but it is the department head's discretion when they can take the holiday.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 11 Discussion and possible action on the approval of the following line item transfers in the amount of \$820,000 from General Fund.

FROM:		
#0104-5001	Economic Development	\$5,000
#0106-5001	Building Maintenance	10,000
#0108-5001	Vehicle Maintenance	9,000
#0400-5001	County Auditor	8,000
#0600-5001	Purchasing	11,000
#0700-5001	Tax Collector	28,000
#1100-5001	District Attorney	40,000
#1101-5001	County Attorney	85,000
#1301-5001	Juvenile Probation	5,000
#2001-5001	Sheriff Bargaining	110,000
#2020-5001	Mirando City Substation	10,000
#2060-5001	Jail	245,000
#2061-5001	Jail-Non Bargaining	45,000
#2200-5001	Emergency Medical Service	22,000
#2600-5001	Justice Center Security	20,000
#0109-6021	Auditing & Accounting	13,000
#0112-7205-23	Villa Antigua	105,000
#0112-7205-24	Tax Base Study	15,000
#0700-6009	Appraisal District Cost	34,000
		TOTAL: \$820,000
TO:		
#4100-6714	Medical Services	\$600,000
#0109-6201	Utilities	100,000
#1301-6201	Utilities-Juvenile Probation	10,000

#1400-6030	Autopsies	75,000
#4101-7003	Indigent Burials	35,000
		TOTAL: \$820,000

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve the item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez stated he had same concerns as with No. 7 and stated that the departments might need those funds. He stated that no action was necessary as this would happen in two days anyway. Cmr. Gutierrez stated she was concerned about a \$105,000 request for payment that had been received from Villa Antigua. Mr. Jorge Flores, County Judge's Chief Financial Officer, recommended reducing Medical Services to \$495,000 and remove \$105,000 transfer from Villa Antigua as monies have been requested. Mr. Pepe Salinas, Sheriff's Department, stated that his department had no problem with the transfer of funds as long as the office is able to cover their expenses. Cmr. Cortez stated that the Medical Services were unauthorized over expenditures and if approval is not given, then payment is not made and stated that if monies from Villa Antigua have not been spent, the balance should be returned to the fund balance. Cmr. Velasquez stated that bills have always been paid even though departments exceed appropriations. Ms. Patricia Barrera, County Tax Assessor Collector, stated that she had not been advised of transfer and stated that her department always returns 10-18% of budget and feels that if this is done now, it would reflect negatively on her department and how she manages her department.

Motion failed 2-3 with Cmr. Gutierrez, Cmr. Velasquez and Judge Bruni voting against.

Item No. 12 Discussion and possible action to transfer Pubic Information Officer slot created in the 2003-2004 budget to the Elections Administration Department, reclassify and rename as Chief Deputy Administrator, with an annual salary in the amount of \$43,354, effective October 1, 2003. The purpose is to reinstate the slot in Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that he had received many calls regarding this item. He had met with Mr. John Beckelhymer, Elections Administrator, and Mr. Oscar Villarreal, Chief Deputy, and feels that slot removed should be reinstated. He stated that the County could stand to lose state funding if the department's budget is lowered.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Cortez stated that this department is very important and he allotted \$16,000 from his discretionary funds to the Elections department. He stated that Mr. Villarreal needed to deal with people on a professional matter and recommended to Mr. Villarreal that he not hire family members to work the election sites. He stated that he received 10 calls thanking the court for dismissing Mr. Villarreal and 2 asking

for his reinstatement. He recommended that the Election Committee meet and discuss Mr. Beckelhymer's position and allow an assistant for Mr. Villarreal so that if he leaves or resigns, there is someone with his knowledge in the department. Judge Bruni and Cmr. Gutierrez stated that they also received calls addressing Cmr. Cortez's concerns. Ms. Patricia Barrera, Tax Assessor Collector, stated that Mr. Beckelhymer was unable to attend and that it was difficult to find intelligent willing workers and that Mr. Beckelhymer does the hiring for the election clerks and judges. Ms. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk, stated that she worked for the Elections Administration Office for three years and stated that election clerks and judges were paid from the time they picked up their supplies to the time they returned them to the office. Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, advised Court that monies would need to be transferred due the Public Information Officer's salary was set at \$40,000.00. Cmr. Velasquez stated that he had been advised by Mr. Raul Casso that there was \$120,000 in savings after the budget hearing. Judge Bruni addressed Mr. Odie Arambula's, Laredo Morning Times editor, regarding his comments about the county's need for a Public Information Officer. He stated that with this action, there would be no Public Information Officer (PIO).

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 13      Discussion and possible action to approve a two year Interlocal agreement (October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2005) with the City of Laredo for EMS and Fire Protection at a cost of \$525,000 and \$600,000, respectively.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that he has spoken with City Council members and feels that justification must be made for the increase in fees. He recommended that the court allow Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, to continue negotiating with the City of Laredo. Cmr. Cortez recommended looking at options for EMS services. He stated that the city does not only charge the county for those they pick up on county land but they charge the individuals health insurance, Medicaid/Medicare and the citizens themselves. He recommended that the court solicit bids for EMS services. Judge Bruni recommended that the court go month by month with the City until proposals for EMS can be submitted. Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Commissioners Court Executive Administrator, advised Court that El Cenizo and Rio Bravo are incorporated cities and stated that \$50,000 would extend the contract for 30 days.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to allow negotiations for 30 day period and solicit bids for EMS services. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, recommended that the court call up the item regarding EMS proposals.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to bring up Addendum Item No. 1. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Addendum  
Item No. 1

Discussion and possible action to solicit proposals for EMS Services.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that her main concern was the safety of the colonia residents.

Chief Landin, Laredo Fire Department, stated that they want what is best for the residents of Laredo and Webb County and has been authorized to accept an extension of the contract. He stated that the Laredo Fire Department and EMS not only provide ambulance services and fire protection but provide technical and water rescue as well as other rescue and safety services. He stated that if a private EMS is contracted, the response time might be longer since they may have fewer ambulances.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent for Item No. 13 & Addendum Item No. 1.

Item No. 14

Discussion and possible action to authorize interim supervision of the Risk Management Department.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to appoint Mr. Raul Casso, County Judge's Chief of Staff as interim Risk Manager. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that he has spoken with the department and would like for court to consider Ms. Amy Palacios as Interim Risk Manager. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she felt that Mr. Casso was more needed at the County Judge's Office due to the projects at hand and stated that Ms. Palacios has experience in how the office is run. Mr. Casso stated that he has kept in constant communication with Ms. Palacios and feels that she is very capable as Interim Risk Manager.

Cmr. Cortez withdrew his motion. Cmr. Vasquez withdrew his motion.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to appoint Ms. Amy Palacios as Interim Risk Manager. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 15

Discussion and possible action to authorize Mr. Raul Elizondo, Director of Facilities, to supervise the Parks and Grounds Department.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that 36 sites are maintained by that department and felt that Mr. Elizondo should leave the work schedule as it is. Mr. Raul Elizondo, Director of Facilities, stated that during normal work conditions, the schedule would remain as it is, but may need to move around employees if emergencies arise.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 16      Discussion and possible action to authorize changing date of regular Commissioners Court Meeting from October 14, 2003 (Tuesday) to October 15, 2003 (Wednesday) at 1:30 p.m.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 17      Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer as follows:

FROM:

Account #0400-6011	Training & Education	\$3,200
Account #0400-5601	Administrative Travel	4,900
Account #0400-6022	Professional Services	1,050
	TOTAL:	\$9,150

TO:

Account #0400-6205	Material & Supplies	\$1,850
Account #0400-6224	Minor Tools	7,300
	TOTAL:	\$9,150

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, stated that the minor tools were one laptop and three scanners needed for the presentation of audit reports. He stated that since the cost was less than \$5,000, he felt it should go through Minor Tools and not Capital Outlay.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned for a 10 minute break. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

10 MINUTE BREAK (3:09 P.M. TO 3:24 P.M.)

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to bring up Item No. 60 and No. 71. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.



Item No. 60      Discussion and possible action on the approval to purchase one (1) Toshiba E-Studio 28 Copier in the amount of \$2,635.00 from Office Communications Systems, one (1) Fire Safe 60X30X26 BRN 168328110 in the amount of \$1,279.00 from Border Sporting Goods, and Three (3) P.C. Cash Registers in the amount of \$11,635.00 from Checkout Plus for Justice of the Peace, Precinct #4. [Account #016-1044-8801 Capital Outlay Justice Court Technology Fund]

Item No. 71      Discussion and possible action to approve request for refunds as recommended by Tax Assessor Collector as follows:

- a) Villa Del Rio, Ltd.  
Reason: Correction on value as per Court Judgment  
Total: \$1,410.95
- b) Enron Metals & Commodity Corp.  
Reason: Did not exist on Jan. 1, 2002  
Total: \$1,145.66
- c) G/S Leasing, Inc.  
Reason: Clerical Error  
Total: \$3,376.52
- d) Citi Financial Mortgage, Attn: Charles Krumpton  
Reason: Over Payment  
Total: \$1,825.32

Comr. Vasquez motioned to approve Item No. 60 and No. 71 as submitted. Comr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to bring back Item No. 14. Comr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 14      Discussion and possible action to authorize interim supervision of the Risk Management Department.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to set salary for Interim Risk Manager at same salary as Risk Manager. Comr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 18      Discussion and possible action on the approval to grant the County Auditor, authority to expend funds from the Meals on Wheels Grant

and the Elderly Nutrition Grant effective October 1, 2003 pending the receipt of all required grant documents.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Comr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, stated that required grant documents have not been received and cannot assure that they will be received. Ms. Cynthia Mares, Community Action Agency, stated that grant is for \$325,000 with a cash match of \$40,000 and is only pending a signature. She stated that this provides services to 425 homebound residents and 365 elderly.

Comr. Gutierrez amended her motion to only provide funding for one month and for time to be brought back.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 19      Discussion and possible action on the approval to fill the following slots:

Slot #1217, Food Deliverer, Part-time, \$10.71 per hour effective September 29, 2003.

Slot #1218, Food Deliverer/Cook Helper, Full-time at \$9.50 per hour effective September 29, 2003.

Item No. 20      Discussion and possible action to create a part-time position (Food Deliverer/Cook Aide) at \$8.25 per hour, effective September 29, 2003.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to approve Item No. 19 and No. 20 as submitted. Comr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 21      Discussion and possible action on the approval of the following line item transfer in the amount of \$1,700.00:

From:		
Account 001-2500-6014	Equipment Rental	\$ 1,700.00
To:		
Account 001-2500-6204	Fuel & Lube	\$ 400.00
Account 001-2500-6403	Vehicle Maintenance	1,200.00
Account 001-2500-6005	Postage	100.00
		TOTAL: \$ 1,700.00

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Comr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 22 Discussion and possible action to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Laredo for fire protection, emergency medical, and rescue services for the unincorporated areas of Webb County for a two year period beginning October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2005 at an annual cost of \$600,000.00 (payable in monthly installments of \$50,000.00) and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. (Account #001-4300-7437 Fire Protection & EMS Service)

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to table item. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

(Action for Items No. 23 through No. 42 was taken together.)

- Item No. 23 Discussion and possible action to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Laredo for the lease of approximately 2,378 square feet which encompasses building 1228, located at 4704 Naranjo Street for a monthly rent of FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) a month for a fifteen month period beginning May 1, 2003 through July 31, 2004, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Account #903-4208-6012 Space Rental Requested by Webb County Head Start]

- Item No. 24 Discussion and possible action to enter into two, one (1) year (September 22, 2003 through September 21, 2004) maintenance agreements with Nevill Business Machines to service a Sharp Copier and a Mita Plotter located in the County Clerk's office at a monthly maintenance fee of THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) for the Copier and FIFTEEN CENTS (\$.15) per linear foot for the Mita Plotter, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Clerk; Account Number 001-1120-6402 Equipment Maintenance]

- Item No. 25 Discussion and possible action to execute a two year depository contract between Webb County and IBC--Commerce Bank for the deposit of Webb County's public funds pursuant to Chapter 116 & 117 of the Texas Local Government Code commencing August 1, 2003, and authorizing the County Judge to execute any and all relevant documents. [Requested by Webb County Treasurer]

- Item No. 26      Discussion and possible action to amend a professional service agreement with Ana Maria Pena, registered dietician for the Head Start Program, and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents. The contract amends the term of the agreement to start on October 1, 2003 and end on September 30, 2004. The original contract had a start date of September 1, 2003 and an ending date of August 31, 2004. [Requested by Webb County Head Start]
- Item No. 27      Discussion and possible action to enter into a month to month term agreement with Southwest Auto-Chlor System, L.P. for one (1) Commercial dishwashing machine at a monthly cost of ONE-HUNDRED AND TWENTY NINE DOLLARS AND NINETY FIVE CENTS (\$129.95), and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Account #903-4208-6014 Equipment Rental - Requested by Head Start]
- Item No. 28      Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004) interlocal agreement with Laredo Independent School District (L.I.S.D.) for four (4) Justices of the Peace Juvenile Coordinators in J.P. Court Precinct 1, Place 1 and Place 2, and Juvenile Coordinators for Precinct 2, Places 1 & 2, in the amount of ELEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY DOLLARS (\$11,990.00) for the Coordinator assigned to J.P. Court Precinct 1, Place 1, TWELVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY-SIX CENTS (\$12,454.56) for the Coordinator assigned to J.P. Court Precinct 1, Place 2, ELEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS (\$11,864.50) for the Coordinator assigned to J.P. Court Precinct 2, Place 1, and TEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS AND SIX CENTS (\$10,875.06) for the Coordinator assigned to J.P. Court Precinct 2, Place 2, and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Account # 6022 Professional Services, Justices of the Peace]
- Item No. 29      Discussion and possible action to enter into a one (1) year (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004) interlocal agreement with United Independent School District (U.I.S.D.) for three (3) Justice of the Peace Juvenile Coordinators in J.P. Court Precinct 2, Place 1 and Place 2, and Juvenile Coordinator for Precinct 4 in the amount of TWELVE

THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SIX DOLLARS (\$12,156) for the Coordinator assigned to J.P. Court Precinct 2, Place 1, ELEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$11,123.00) for the Coordinator assigned to J.P. Court Precinct 2, Place 2, and TWELVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$12,156.00) for the Coordinator assigned to J.P. Court Precinct 4, and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Account # 6022 Professional Services, Justices of the Peace]

Item No. 30 Discussion and possible action to enter into a four (4) year (September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2007) lease and maintenance agreement with XEROX CORPORATION for one Digital Copier at a monthly cost of SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR DOLLARS AND SIXTEEN CENTS (\$724.16) and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Requested by C.A.A.; Account #920-4200-6014 Equipment Rental]

Item No. 31 Discussion and possible action to enter an order of the Commissioners Court authorizing a collection fee in the amount of 30% of debts and accounts receivable such as unpaid fines, fees, court costs, forfeited bonds, and restitution ordered paid by a justice court or county court at law serving the county, as applicable, and amounts in cases in which the accused has failed to appear: as promised under subchapter A, Chapter 543, Transportation Code, or other law; or in compliance with a lawful written notice to appear issued under Article 14.05(b) Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, or other Texas law; or in compliance with a lawful summons issued under Article 15.03(b), Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law; or in compliance with a lawful order of a court serving the county, when such amounts are more than 60 days past due and have been referred to an attorney or private vendor for collection in cases occurring after June 18, 2003.

Item No. 32 Discussion and possible action to approve line-item transfer from the County Attorney Department Budget as follows:

From Account Number:

001-1101-5602	Local Mileage	\$ 400.00
001-1101-6028	Witness Expense	\$ 300.00
001-1101-6010	Books/Subscriptions	\$ 400.00
		\$1,100.00

To Account Number:

001-1101-6005	Postage	\$ 100.00
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001-1101-6022	Professional services	\$ 150.00
001-1101-6204	Fuel/lube	\$ 350.00
001-1101-6205	Materials/Supplies	\$ 500.00
		TOTAL: \$1,100.00

- Item No. 33      Discussion and possible action to order the implementation of a policy for charges for providing copies of public information pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act and any matters incident thereto.
- Item No. 34      Discussion and possible action to enter into Extension Amendment Number 2 to the Earnest Money Contract dated December 10, 2002 with the Texas Mexican Railway Company for an additional sixty (60) days and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.
- Item No. 35      Discussion and possible action to accept, by order, 2 rights-of-way, out of Los Ranchitos 359 East Subdivision, 32 rights-of-way, out of Pueblo Nuevo Subdivision, and 2 rights of way, out of Ranchitos IV Los Minerales Annex Subdivision, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.
- Item No. 36      Discussion and possible action to enter into a three (3) year (September 22, 2003 through September 21, 2006) burglar alarm service and maintenance agreement with TRANSTATE SECURITY SYSTEMS to install and service an alarm system at the El Cenizo Community Center located at 3519 Cecilia Lane in El Cenizo, Texas at a monthly cost of TWENTY FOUR DOLLARS AND NINETY FIVE CENTS (\$24.95). The agreement also calls for a one-time TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FOURTEEN DOLLAR AND NINETY FIVE CENTS (\$2,514.95) alarm system equipment installation-connection fee. The total cost of the Agreement is THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN DOLLARS AND FIFTEEN CENTS (\$3,413.15) and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents.  
[Account #001-0105-9201 – Claims Paid/Property]
- Item No. 37      Discussion and possible action to enter into a three (3) year (September 22, 2003 through September 21, 2006) burglar alarm service and maintenance agreement with TRANSTATE SECURITY SYSTEMS to install and service an alarm system at the Rio Bravo Community Center located at 1600 Orquidia Drive in Rio Bravo, Texas at a monthly cost of TWENTY FOUR DOLLARS AND NINETY FIVE

CENTS (\$24.95). The agreement also calls for a one-time TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) alarm system equipment installation-connection fee. The total cost of the Agreement is THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND NINETY EIGHT DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS (\$3,398.20) and authorizing the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Account #001-0105-9201 – Claims Paid/Property]

- Item No. 38      Discussion and possible action to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Webb County Deputy Sheriffs Association beginning October 1, 2003, and ending September 30, 2007, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.
- Item No. 39      Discussion and possible action to enter into a software maintenance agreement with New World Systems Corporation for a three year period (10/01/03 – 09/30/04 annual cost of \$49,000.00; 10/01/04 – 09/30/05 annual cost of \$52,500.00; 10/01/05 – 09/30/06 annual cost of \$56,000.00) for the following software application packages and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents:  
Combined LE/Fire/EMS CAD  
Law Enforcement Records Software (Base Package)  
LE Records Federal/State Compliance Software  
Additional Law Enforcement Records Software  
Corrections Management (Base System)  
Corrections Mgmt Federal/State Compliance  
Additional Corrections Management Software  
Business Office Software  
Other Public Safety Interface Software
- Item No. 40      Discussion and possible action to enter into a software maintenance agreement with New World Systems Corporation for a three year period (10/01/03 – 09/30/04 annual cost of \$19,600.00; 10/01/04 – 09/30/05 annual cost of \$21,000.00; 10/01/05 – 09/30/06 annual cost of \$22,400.00) for the following software application packages and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents:  
County Management Software (Base Package)  
Court Management Federal/State Compliance  
Additional Court Management Software
- Item No. 41      Discussion and possible action to enter into a software maintenance agreement with New World Systems Corporation for a three year

period (10/01/03 – 09/30/06 annual cost of \$37,760.00) for the following software application packages and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents:

Financial Management Software (Base Package)  
Additional Financial Management Software  
Human Resources Software  
Utility Information Software

- Item No. 42      Discussion and possible action to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Laredo for the continued placement of a modular building located adjacent to the El Cenizo Community Center (including utility service to include electricity water and sewer service at no cost to City) to house the Laredo Health Department WIC Program for a five year period at no cost to the City of Laredo and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve Item No. 23, No. 24, No. 25, No. 26, No. 27, No. 28, No. 29, No. 30, No. 31, No. 32, No. 33, No. 34, No. 35, No. 36, No. 37, No. 38, No. 39, No. 40, No. 41, and No. 42 as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that on Item No. 33, no policy was in place for Public Information Request charges. He stated that the charges presented were standard across Texas.

Judge Bruni motioned to implement policy presented for Item No. 33. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent. (Item No. 33)

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, stated that on Item No. 36 and No. 37, Account No. 001-0105-9201 should be Account No. 001-0106-9201.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent. (Item NO. 23 through No. 42 except No. 33)

- Item No. 43      Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount of \$300 from account #001-1010-6010 (Books & Subscription) to account #001-1010-5601 (Administrative Travel).

- Item No. 44      Discussion and possible action on the approval to grant the County Auditor authority to expend funds from the DEA Narcotic Task Force and City of Laredo Financial Task Force DEA, effective October 1, 2003 pending the receipt of all required grant documents.



Item No. 45      Discussion and possible action on the approval of the following line item transfers in the amount of \$6,000:

From:

Account #001-1100-6402	Repair & Maintenance Equipment	\$3,500
Account #001-1100-6204	Fuel & Lube	500
Account #001-1100-6014	Equipment Rental	2,000
	TOTAL	\$6,000

TO:

Account #001-1100-6011	Training & Education	\$3,500
Account #001-1100-6005	Postage	500
Account #001-1100-5601	Administrative Travel	2,000
	TOTAL:	\$6,000

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve Item No. 43, No. 44 and No. 45 as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, stated that Item No. 44 had the same concerns as Item No. 18 since not all documents have been received.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve funding for 30 days for Item No. 44 and approve additional funding until all documents have been received. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 46      Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount of \$4,996 from account #001-0107-6705 (Election Expense) to account #001-0107-6224 (Minor Apparatus & Tools)

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 47      Discussion and possible action authorizing the Road & Bridge Construction Crews to return to regular hours of operations (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with half hour lunch) effective October 3, 2003.

Item No. 48      Discussion and possible action authorizing the County Engineer and the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids on the purchase and

installation of the Five Section Traffic Light that will have a protected turning light for the intersection of Espejo Molina Road and Pena Drive.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to approve Item No. 47 and No. 48 as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 49      Discussion and possible action to approve a line item transfer in the amount of \$1,765 from account #001-0106-6202 (Uniforms) to account #001-0106-6403 (Repair & Maintenance Vehicle).

Item No. 50      Discussion and possible action to approve a line item transfer in the amount of \$900 from account #001-1041-6022 (Professional Services) to account #001-1041-6224 (Minor Tools).

Item No. 51      Discussion and possible action to approve a line item transfer in the amount of \$1,000 from account #001-1045-5601 (Adm. Travel) to account #001-1045-6205 (Material & Supplies).

Item No. 52      Discussion and possible action to fill Slots #907 and #1337 (Probation Officers) at \$13.20 per hour effective September 29, 2003.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve Item No. 49, No. 50, No. 51 and No. 52 as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 61      Discussion and possible action to award a proposal for landscaping and greenery for the Webb County Courthouse. [Account #001-0109-6401 Repair and Maintenance of Building]

Cmr. Cortez motioned to table item. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

(Action for Items No. 53 through No. 62 with the exception of No. 60 and No. 61 was taken together)

Item No. 53      Discussion and possible action to award the annual contract for auto parts bid #2004-05 to the following vendors:

1. J. R. Martinez Auto South (Primary Vendor)
2. O'Reilly Auto (Secondary Vendor)

3. Gonzalez Auto Parts and Laredo Wholesale Auto Parts (Third Vendor)

- Item No. 54      Discussion and possible action to authorize the purchasing agent to obtain the Electrical Services for the Lake Casa Blanca Pump House from Bexar Electric Company, LTD. in the amount of \$ 800 and the services from Zertuche Construction, LLC to rebuild pump shed at Casa Blanca in the amount of \$4,725. [Account #001-6001-6401 Repair Maintenance Building]
- Item No. 55      Discussion and possible action to award/reject Bid #2003-42 one (1) type III bus with lift to National Bus Sales in the amount of \$53,910.
- Item No. 56      Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase software and training from Plato Learning, Inc. in the amount of \$9,500 for the Juvenile Alternative Educational Program. [Account #149-1301-6011 Training & Education]
- Item No. 57      Discussion and possible action to approve a Food Service Agreement with Bethany House and Webb County Juvenile Department in the amount of \$2.50 per meal and \$1.50 per snack for the term of one year with an option to extend for an additional year and authorize the County judge to execute any and all documents. [Account #001-2062-6208 - Groceries]
- Item No. 58      Discussion and possible action to award/reject Bid #2004-19 annual contract for Pharmaceutical Supplies to People's Preferred Pharmacy LLC D/B/A Rodriguez Pharmacy FY' 2003-2004.
- Item No. 59      Discussion and possible action to award/reject proposal # P-2003-21, Independent Auditors Services for the Webb County Auditor's Department.
- Item No. 62      Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase the equipment for the El Cenizo and Rio Bravo Community Centers in the amount of \$17,275 from Bond Series 2002. [Account #696-8007-8801 Capital Outlay Certificates of Obligation Series 2002]

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve Item No. 53, No. 54, No. 55, No. 56, No. 57, No. 58, No. 59 and No. 62 as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion with discussion on No. 53.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that he has received complaints of bad service and the quality of parts purchased previously and would like for them to shop around between the vendors to get the best price. Mr. Jose Luis Rodriguez, Road & Bridge Superintendent, stated that quotes are requested from the vendors before requisition is made.

Mr. Eloy Ramirez stated that on Item No. 59, his office received 4 bids from the following: Mejia and Company; J. Clayton Baum; Garza, Martinez and Company; Patillo, Brown, & Hill, LLP; and Gonzalez, Farias, Guerra and Flores, P.C. (submitted a no response letter). He stated that the Purchasing Committee recommended Garza, Martinez and Company.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to not accept recommendation and award bid to Mejia and Company since they would be more efficient due to their knowledge of the County.

Cmr. Vasquez stated that he felt that vendors needed to be rotated. Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, stated that the committee took into account the rotation of vendors, timing to complete the audit (only vendor that would commit to timeframe requested) and staffing level and stated that fees for vendors are negotiable. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that cost is not a factor for consideration because if a selected vendor does not accept financial compensation, then they would go with next vendor.

Judge Bruni seconded Cmr. Velasquez's motion.

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, stated that previous vendor was Baum & Mejia who have disbanded and filed separate bids.

Motion carried 3-2 with Cmr. Vasquez and Cmr. Gutierrez voting against. (Item No. 59)

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, Purchasing Agent, stated that on Item No. 54, Account No. should be 001-0105-9201. He also stated that Item No. 57 was budgeted under his department and he would be diligent with account.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, suggested that the court appoint a negotiating committee for Item No. 59 or designate the scoring committee as the negotiating committee. Cmr. Velasquez stated that it would be part of his motion.

Cmr. Gutierrez recommended that bids be awarded for Item No. 55 and No. 58.

Mr. Pepe Salinas, Sheriff's Department, stated that account on Item No. 57 was same as one used for jail and would like to go on record that he may request an additional \$50,000 later in the year.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent. (Item No. 53 through 62 except Item No. 59, No. 60 and No. 61)

- Item No. 63      Discussion and possible action to determine if Webb County wishes to exercise the right to be exempt from sections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to become effective October 1, 2003.

Ms. Amy Palacios, Interim Risk Manager, stated the Item No. 63 was done as a cost savings to the county and recommended opting out.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to opt out. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 64      Discussion and possible action to approve the renewal of the accidental insurance for the Webb County Head Start Program from the Maksin Group in the amount of \$6,325 (\$5.50 per child) to become effective October 1, 2003, and authorize the County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Account 001-0105-6032 Prop/Cas/Lib Insurance Premium)

- Item No. 65      Discussion and possible action to approve the renewal of the Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance from Palmer & Cay of Texas, Inc. to become effective October 1, 2003, and authorize the County Judge to execute all relevant documents.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve Item No. 64 and No. 65 as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 66      Discussion and possible action on the approval of the following line item transfer:

FROM:		
816-0105-9203	Claims Paid Prescription	\$32,000
TO:		
816-0105-6038	Administrative Fees	\$17,500
816-0105-6060	Basic Life Insurance	500
816-0105-6202	Claims Paid Dental	14,000
	TOTAL:	\$32,000

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 67 Discussion and possible action to approve the U.S. Department of Justice, Local Law Enforcement Grant award of \$76,069 with a Webb County Cash Match of \$8,452. Total Grant Fund \$84,521.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 68 Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount of \$23,000 from account #001-2060-5001 Payroll to the Laredo National Bank Checking Account #836-1063 to cover outstanding checks.

Judge Bruni motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Mr. Pepe Salinas, Sheriff's Department, stated that this has been going on for three years and wants to settle this due it comes out as an exception on the audit. Cmr. Velasquez stated that he was concerned about the funding source.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 69 Discussion and possible action on the approval of the line item transfers in the amount of \$12,000 as follows:

FROM:		
Account #2060-5005	Temporary Part-Timers	\$ 7,000
Account #2060-6401	Building Maintenance	5,000
		TOTAL: \$12,000
TO:		
Account #2600-5005	Professional Services	\$ 7,000
Account #2060-6014	Equipment Rental	5,000
		TOTAL: \$12,000

- Item No. 70 Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount of \$16,000 from account #001-2062-6205 (Material & Supplies) to account #001-2062-6224 (Minor Tools)

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve Item No. 69 and No. 70 as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 72      Discussion and possible action to approve a line item transfer in the amount of \$1,085 as follows:

FROM:		
Account #0300-6007	Dues & Membership	\$ 125
Account #0300-6010	Books & Subscriptions	150
Account #0300-6011	Training & Education	810
		TOTAL: \$1,085
TO:		
Account #0300-6205	Material & Supplies	\$1,085

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Item No. 74      Discussion and possible action to appoint members of the Webb County Employee Grievance Committee pursuant to §14.04 of the Webb County Personnel Policies Manual, to set the terms of those members, and any related matters. (Requested by County Judge) [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071(Consultation with Attorney)].

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she would be appointing Ms. Maribel Calderon. Judge Bruni stated that he had no appointee yet. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that Judge Bruni could appoint someone by addressing a letter to him or the County Clerk.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to accept Cmr. Gutierrez's appointee and that Judge Bruni's appointee would serve as chairman. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to move into Executive Session. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION (4:21 P.M. TO 5:19 P.M.)

Judge Bruni reconvened meeting and stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Item No. 73      Discussion and possible action regarding the bodily injury claims of Minerva Arredondo and Martha Arredondo for a motor vehicle accident which occurred on or about May 9, 2003 with a County vehicle driven by a Road & Bridge employee [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code (Consultation with Attorney)].

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to settle along parameters discussed in Executive Session.  
Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 75      Discussion and possible action to enter into a contract amendment number 1 with Texas General Contractors, Inc., to provide for ten percent (10%) retainage on the LIFE Downs demolition project and to add to the description of services the demolition and removal of the "main stage" at the LIFE Downs Complex for a cost not to exceed FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00) and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Closed Session requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071(Consultation with Attorney)]

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to accept recommendation and amend contract for an additional \$15,000. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Addendum  
Item No. 2

Discussion and possible action to approve revised contract for operation of Casa Blanca Golf Course commencing October 1, 2003 and for County Judge to execute all relevant documents. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)].

Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, recommended that the amount owed by Mr. Balt Ramos (\$17,600) be settled before the contract is executed. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that as per his conversation with Mr. Ramos' attorney, Jose Lopez, the Court took action to approve contract as well as the removal of golf course employees from county budget effective October 1, 2003. He stated that if the matters of the contract are not addressed, problems would arise on Wednesday, October 1, 2003 when the new budget comes into effect. He advised Court that Webb County would still be responsible for bringing water to the facility, cost of



electricity to the facility, maintenance and repairs of lines over six (6) inches as well as the water pump even if contract is not approved. He also stated that he had concerns as to the total amount owed by Mr. Ramos. He suggested that the court come back at the next meeting regarding the pending claims. He stated that he and the auditor would come back to the Court with a firm number.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned that the contract amendment with Mr. Ramos was approved Monday with two items pending and with Mr. Ramos taking over the employees effective October 1, 2003.

Mr. Ramos advised Court that he has met with golf course employees and everything would remain the same until January 15, 2004 at which time he would evaluate employees and make any changes that he feels are necessary. He stated that he is able to raise fees up no more than \$2.00 but has not implemented increase and feels that market would justify increase. He requested discretion to raise the fees no more than \$2.00 to cover additional expenditures.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve contract with revisions discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that as long as the court's direction is understood, no action is necessary.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to table item. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Addendum  
Item No. 3

Discussion and possible action regarding resolution of pending matters in controversy regarding contract with Balt Ramos, Inc. in connection with the operation of Casa Blanca Golf Course, and grant of authority to County Attorney to resolve said matters. [Executive Session is requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)].

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, recommended that this item be tabled.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to table the item. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 76      Adjournment

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to adjourn meeting. Cmr. Vasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.